Don't enter amendment. JF

In the Claims:

We claim:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method for characterizing prostate cancer in a subject, comprising:

a) providing a sample from a subject, wherein said subject has been diagnosed with prostate cancer; and

b) characterizing said sample by detecting the presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample with a nucleic acid probe configured to hybridize to a HIP1 nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said ~~presence or~~ absence of HIP1 in said sample is indicative of one or more of properties of said cancer selected from the group consisting of[[,]] chance of PSA recurrence[[,]] and chance of recurrence free survival~~, and stage of said cancer~~.

25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is tumor tissue.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is biopsy tissue.

27. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting HIP1 comprises detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA comprises a detection assay selected from the group